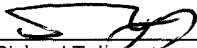


CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper and every paper referred to therein as being enclosed is being electronically deposited with the USPTO via the USPTO EFS electronic filing system, as of today.


Richard T. Lyon

Date: 10-16-06

PATENT
Microsoft Docket No. 158335.01
L&H No. MCS-029-04

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:	:	Group Art Unit: 2155
Smith et al.	:	
	:	
Entitled: AUTOMATIC PARTICIPANT EVALUATION	:	Examiner: V. A. Korobov
IN COMPUTER MEDIATED PERSISTENT	:	
CONVERSATIONS	:	
	:	
Serial No.: 10/071,575	:	
	:	
Filing Date: February 8, 2002	:	

RECORDATION OF THE SUBSTANCE OF EXAMINER INITIATED INTERVIEW

Hon. Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned attorney for the applicants spoke with the Examiner in the subject application, V. A. Korobov, on September 7, 2006 and September 11, 2006. These interviews involved a discussion of Claims 1, 5, 35, 40 and 41, and changes to these claims that would make them patentable. As a result of each interview, the undersigned sent an email to the Examiner with proposed claim changes. Copies of these emails, dated September 8, 2006 and

September 11, 2006, are attached. It was agreed by the undersigned to allow the Examiner to make an Examiner's amendment to the claims reflecting the proposed changes provided in the September 11 email.

In addition, the undersigned agreed to an amendment of the specification to add the phrase "according to the present invention" to the description of Fig. 2 on Page 4, paragraph [0012]. It was also agreed that the phrase "<http://netscan.research.microsoft.com>" on Page 7, line 2 would be replaced with "netscan.research.microsoft.com". Both of these amendments were to be accomplished with an Examiner's amendment.

LYON & HARR, LLP
300 Esplanade Drive
Suite 800
Oxnard, CA 93036
(805) 278-8855

Respectfully submitted,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard T. Lyon".

Richard T. Lyon
Reg. No. 37,385
Attorney for Applicant(s)

LH:Rick

From: "Richard Lyon" <Rick@CuttingEdgePatents.com>
To: <vitali.korobov@uspto.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 08, 2006 1:21 PM
Subject: Application of Smith et al. Serial No: 10/071,575 entitled: AUTOMATIC PARTICIPANT EVALUATION IN COMPUTER MEDIATED PERSISTENT CONVERSATIONS Filing Date: February 8, 2002

Vitali:

This email is in response to the phone conversation I had with you yesterday evening, September 7, 2006 regarding the subject patent application.

Based on our conversation I propose to amend claims 1, 5, 35 and 40 as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended) In a computer mediated persistent conversation system having one or more computers with which each of multiple users author and post messages in one or more conversations, the system including a computer-readable medium that stores computer software instructions for operating the system, the instructions comprising:

- obtaining selected information from the one or more conversations;
- storing the selected information and forming from it aggregated conversation data that includes aggregations according to time, conversation, and authoring user;
- tagging the messages when they are posted by authoring users**, wherein tagging a message comprises inserting a tag into the message, wherein the tag identifies the message** as being of one or more selected message types comprising a Question message type indicating that a message is a question and an Answer message type indicating that a message is an answer to a Question message type; and
- providing the aggregated conversation data and message type tags to users of the computer mediated persistent conversation system.

Claim 5. (currently amended) The system of claim 4 in which the plural aggregations according to plural time periods or resolutions include aggregations according to [[two or more of]] the time periods or resolutions: day, week, month, quarter, year, year-to-date.

Claim 35. (currently amended) A method for mediating persistent conversations between multiple people who author and post messages in one or more of the conversations comprising [[for]] the actions of:

- obtaining selected information from the one or more conversations;
- storing the selected information and forming from it aggregated conversation data that includes aggregations according to time, conversation, and authoring person;
- tagging the messages when they are posted by authoring people**, wherein tagging a message comprises inserting a tag into the message, wherein the tag identifies the message** as being of one or more selected message types, comprising a Question message type indicating that a message is a question and an Answer message type indicating that a message is an answer to a Question message type; and
- providing the aggregated conversation data and tags identifying the message type to the people.

Claim 40. (currently amended) A process for mediating one or more persistent conversations between multiple people who author and post messages in one or more of the conversations comprising process actions for:

- obtaining selected information from each conversation;
- aggregating the selected information in different ways including aggregations according to time, conversation, and authoring person;
- tagging the messages when they are posted by authoring people, **wherein tagging a message comprises inserting a tag into the message, **wherein [[a]] **the** tag identifies the message as being of one or more selected message types;
- providing the aggregated information and message type tags to the people.

NOTE: Text contained within the double brackets [[xxx]] indicates deleted text, and text contained within the double stars **xxx** indicates added text.

In summary, claims 1, 35 and 40 are amended to further clarify the term "tagging" as it is defined in our

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specification and as it is understood in the cited art. Claim 35 is further amended to remove the redundant word "for." Claim 5 is amended to remove the limitation of "two or more of" the stated time periods or resolutions.

Per your request, I am sending you these proposed claim amendments for your review. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me by email or by telephone at (805) 278-8855.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Lyon
Attorney for Applicant

9/8/2006

LH:Rick

From: "Richard Lyon" <Rick@CuttingEdgePatents.com>
To: <vitali.korobov@uspto.gov>
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2006 5:35 PM
Subject: Application of Smith et al. Serial No: 10/071,575 entitled: AUTOMATIC PARTICIPANT EVALUATION IN COMPUTER MEDIATED PERSISTENT CONVERSATIONS Filing Date: February 8, 2002

Vitali:

This email is in response to the phone conversation I had with you earlier today, September 11, 2006 regarding the subject patent application. As agreed I have included below proposed amendments to the independent claims that add functional language reciting how the tagged messages are used. In addition, I included proposed changes to Claims 40 and 41 to bring the limitations of the other independent claims into Claim 40.

More particularly, I propose claims 1, 5, 35, 40 and 41 be amended as follows:

Claim 1. (currently amended) In a computer mediated persistent conversation system having one or more computers with which each of multiple users author and post messages in one or more conversations, the system including a computer-readable medium that stores computer software instructions for operating the system, the instructions comprising:

- obtaining selected information from the one or more conversations;
- storing the selected information and forming from it aggregated conversation data that includes aggregations according to time, conversation, and authoring user;
- tagging the messages when they are posted by authoring users**, wherein tagging a message comprises inserting a tag into the message, wherein the tag identifies the message** as being of one or more selected message types comprising a Question message type indicating that a message is a question and an Answer message type indicating that a message is an answer to a Question message type**, whereby the tagged messages allow said users to decide whether a conversation is likely to provide useful information**; and
- providing the aggregated conversation data and message type tags to users of the computer mediated persistent conversation system.

Claim 5. (currently amended) The system of claim 4 in which the plural aggregations according to plural time periods or resolutions include aggregations according to [[two or more of]] the time periods or resolutions: day, week, month, quarter, year, year-to-date.

Claim 35. (currently amended) A method for mediating persistent conversations between multiple people who author and post messages in one or more of the conversations comprising [[for]] the actions of:

- obtaining selected information from the one or more conversations;
- storing the selected information and forming from it aggregated conversation data that includes aggregations according to time, conversation, and authoring person;
- tagging the messages when they are posted by authoring people**, wherein tagging a message comprises inserting a tag into the message, wherein the tag identifies the message** as being of one or more selected message types, comprising a Question message type indicating that a message is a question and an Answer message type indicating that a message is an answer to a Question message type**, whereby the tagged messages allow said people to decide whether a conversation is likely to provide useful information**; and
- providing the aggregated conversation data and tags identifying the message type to the people.

Claim 40. (currently amended) A process for mediating one or more persistent conversations between multiple people who author and post messages in one or more of the conversations comprising process actions for:

- obtaining selected information from each conversation;
- **storing and** aggregating the selected information in different ways including aggregations according to time, conversation, and authoring person;
- tagging the messages when they are posted by authoring people, **wherein tagging a message comprises inserting a tag into the message, **wherein [[a]] **the** tag identifies the message as being of one or more selected message types, **comprising a Question message type indicating that a message is a question and an Answer message type indicating that a message is an answer to a Question message type, whereby the tagged messages allow said people to decide whether a conversation is likely to provide useful information**;

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providing the aggregated information and message type tags to the people.

Claim 41. (currently amended) The process of claim 40, wherein the one or more selected message types ****further**** comprise at least one of:

[[a Question message type indicating that a message is a question;
an Answer message type indicating that a message is an answer to a Question message type;]]
a Closed message type indicating either that a message of the Answer message type resolves a message of the Question message type, or that a selected reply message resolves an initial message.
a Review message type indicating that a message is a review of book, article, film or other piece of work;
an Event message type indicating that a message identifies a past or future event;
a FAQ message type indicating that a message identifies Frequently Asked Questions;
a Claim message type indicating that a message includes particular claims made by the authoring person; and
a Code Sample message type indicating that a message includes software code and supporting information about the software code.

NOTE: Text contained within the double brackets [[xxx]] indicates deleted text, and text contained within the double stars ****xxx**** indicates added text.

In summary, Claims 1, 35 and 40 are amended to further clarify the term "tagging" as it is defined in our specification and as it is understood in the cited art. Claim 35 is further amended to remove the redundant word "for." Claim 5 is amended to remove the limitation of "two or more of" the stated time periods or resolutions. Claim 40 is amended to include limitations of Claims 1 and 35. Claim 41 is amended to conform to the change in Claim 40.

Per your request, I am sending you these proposed claim amendments for your review. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact me by email or by telephone at (805) 278-8855.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Lyon
Attorney for Applicants